GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4285
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
USE OF FERTILIZERS PESTICIDES
S. SAIDUZZAMAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a dramatic increase in pests population due to intensification programe following use of fertilisers and pesticides and HYV etc;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that against a few pest species in pulses in 1920 today there are over 250 in Pulses alone leading to decreased production;

(c) if so, the list of insect species in 1920/1940 and at present in respect of major crops;

(d) the plans/corrective steps taken by the Government including switch over to organic farming etc. to meet this grave situation;

(e) whether the Government propose to strengthen strongly the neglected area of biological control R and D in the country at the earliest and extend the knowledge through collaboration with NGOs involved in promotion of organic farming; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir. The use of fertilizers, pesticides and high-yielding varieties in crop intensification programme has had a role in increasing the pest population in a number of crops.

(b)&(c): Yes, Sir. It is a fact that Fletcher in 1920 listed a total of 35 insect pests on various Pulse crops in the country. During 1993, Dhaliwal and Arora and during 1995 Lal reported more than 250 insect pests on various pulse crops.

Insects pests recorded in 1920/1940 and at present in respect of major crops are given below:-

Crop	1920/1940		At present	
	Total insect pests recorded	No. of serious pests	Total insect pests recorded	No. of serious pests
Rice	35	10	240	17
Wheat	20	2	100	19
Sugarcane	28	2	240	43
Groundnut	10	4	100	12
Rapeseed/Mustard	10	4	38	12
Pulses	35	6	250	34
Cotton	34	9	162	15

(d): The Government is making all out efforts to reduce the use of chemical pesticides and is promoting biointensive pest management practices for major crop pests through Project Directorate of Biological Control (PDBC), National Centre for Integrated Pest Management (NCIPM) and other crop based institutions of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Central Integrated Pest Management Centres (CIPMCs) and State Governments. Biocontrol agents and biopesticides are critical inputs in the Integrated Pest Management programmes and are important tools in the Integrated Pest Management Programmes of the country.

The Government is fully conscious of the importance of organic farming. A National Project on Organic Farming is proposed during Xth Plan to provide financial assistance to different agencies including Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for the following components:-

i) Setting up of commercial production units of fruit and vegetables waste compost units, bio-fertilizer production units and hatcheries for vermiculture as back ended capital subsidy through National Agricultural Bank for Rural Development (NABARD)/ National

Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC);

ii) Capacity building for promotion of organic farming as service providers;

iii) Training programmes;

iv) Creation of knowledge based data bank; and

v) Creating National awareness.

(e)&(f): The Government has adopted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as a cardinal principle and the main plank of plant protection in the overall crop production programme. The Project Directorate of Biological Control including All India Coordinated Research Project on Crop pests and weeds is generating the desired know- how of effective biocontrol agents in the country on various crops. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research established the aforesaid Project Directorate of Biological Control during 1993 for generation of new technologies and promoting various biological control activities in the country. The Government of India/ Indian Council of Agricultural Research is further thinking of strengthening the Project Directorate of Biological Control and related activities of biocontrol programmes under X Plan. Training programmes on production technologies of various biocontrol agents are being conducted for the personnel of Non Governmental Organizations, Government and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.